

1 Claims

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3 1. Apparatus for deblistering a pharmaceutical
4 blister pack having a number of product blisters and
5 a lidding material thereover, the apparatus
6 comprising a pack holding means adapted to hold the
7 blister pack and means to transfer the pack into and
8 out of alignment with an operating position, the
9 operating position having a lidding material cutting
10 means and a blister punching means on opposing sides
11 thereof.

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13 2. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the pack
14 holding means has a series of indentations.

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16 3. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the pack
17 holding means has a series of holes extending
18 through the pack holding means.

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20 4. Apparatus as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 3
21 wherein the pack holding means retains the blister
22 pack through one or more retaining and/or
23 restraining means.

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25 5. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding
26 claims wherein the pack holding means is retained by
27 a plate transfer means.

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29 6. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 5 wherein the plate
30 transfer means is adapted to provide movement of the
31 pack holding means into and out of alignment of the
32 operating position.

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2 7. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 6 wherein the plate
3 transfer means is guided in its movement, optionally
4 by one or more arms, guide rails and/or pins.

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6 8. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding
7 claims wherein the pack holding means is moveable
8 into and out of alignment of the operating position
9 in one movement.

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11 9. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding
12 claims wherein the pack holding means is moveable
13 when out of alignment with the operating position.

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15 10. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding
16 claims wherein the lidding material cutting means
17 includes a number of cutting pieces such as studs.

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19 11. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 10 wherein the
20 cutting pieces are attached to a carrier plate so as
21 to be simultaneously operable.

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23 12. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 10 or Claim 11
24 wherein the cutting pieces are in a pattern which is
25 complementary to the position of the blisters on the
26 pack to be deblistered.

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28 13. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding
29 claims wherein the cutting means is changeable.

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1 14. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding
2 claims wherein the cutting means is moveable between
3 a rest position and a cutting position.

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5 15. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding
6 claims wherein the blister punching means acts
7 indirectly on the blisters.

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9 16. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding
10 claims wherein the pack holding means is wholly or
11 substantially in a vertical position in the
12 operating position.

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14 17. A method of deblistering a pharmaceutical
15 blister pack having a number of product blisters
16 covered by a lidding material, comprising the steps
17 of:

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19 locating the blister pack on a pack holding means
20 having complementary pockets corresponding to the
21 blisters of the blister pack,

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23 transferring the pack holding means into an
24 operating position in alignment with a lidding
25 material cutting means and a blister punching means,

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27 wholly, substantially or partly cutting the lidding
28 material by activation of the cutting means,

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30 deblistering the contents of the product blisters by
31 engagement of the blister punching means such that
32 the contents are without the blister pack, and

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2 moving the deblistered blister pack out of alignment
3 with the operating position.

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5 18. A method as claimed in Claim 17 wherein the pack
6 holding means is wholly or substantially horizontal
7 when locating the blister pack thereon.

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9 19. A method as claimed in Claim 17 or Claim 18
10 wherein the pack holding means is wholly or
11 substantially vertical in the operating position.

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13 20. A method as claimed in any one of Claims 17 to 19
14 wherein the cutting means and/or blister punching
15 means are linearly moveable between a rest position
16 and an engagement position.

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18 21. A method as claimed in any one of Claims 17 to
19 20 wherein the pack holding means and/or blister
20 pack are wholly or substantially stationary during
21 engagement of the cutting means and blister punching
22 means.

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